

For only the third time in American history, an incumbent President has been defeated — rather decisively — in a Presidential primary.

Ronald Reagan, whom most of the pundits had consigned to a category several steps beyond rigor mortis, resurrected — like a ghost at the banquet — in North Carolina, after six straight setbacks. He accomplished what only Estes Kefauver and Eugene McCarthy managed to do in 1952 and 1968.

(Quite hilariously, the American Conservative Union's James Roberts issued a widely reported statement that since this constitutes "an embarrassing repudiation," the President "in the interests of Republican unity, has no choice now but to withdraw from contention.")

While there is no certain measure of what exactly effects such an upset (which could be deadly serious to Ford if it spreads to Texas and California) it would appear that surely the outcome in Carolina was affected in part by the Bo Callaway improprieties.

It would appear to be highly improbable that many thinking Americans are of the opinion that nobody in the Ford administration

knew about Bo's bonanza prior to the time it was exposed by the press — first by a weekly newspaper in Colorado and then by the Denver Post.

Presidential News Secretary Ron Nessen is apparently ordered to keep on announcing to a thoroughly skeptical White House press corps that there has been no change and that Bo is only on "temporary leave" — when it is suspected that Bo would be almost as welcome in the White House now as, say, one former President, now resident in California.

Speaking of Mr. Nixon — whose sordid spectre will haunt the nation from now until November in the Woodward-Bernstein movie and book — Nessen was the victim, just prior to the North Carolina primary, of an exceptionally stupid and singularly outrageous cover-up.

At the request of this disgraced ex-President a White House staffer flew to California to pick up two copies of Richard Nixon's 60-page report on his visit to China — which visit very nearly lost Gerald Ford the New Hampshire primary.

The courier, a White

House staffer who among other things is liaison to ex-Presidents and their families, then flew back to Washington. For some reason which has never been satisfactorily explained, the first copy was not delivered to the person who formulates U.S. foreign policy (The President). The first copy went to You Guessed It at Foggy Bottom (A Senior American Official With A Thick Teutonic Accent).

President Ford, who received his copy the day after Henry did, characterized it as "very interesting and useful" — although for some never-explained reason, no copies were made of this "interesting and useful" document. *Both copies were sent back (by U.S. Postal Service — which recently lost the cremated remains of a Navy Captain) to San Clemente, again at the request of "Private Citizen" Nixon.*

Only National Security Council chief Gen. Brent Skowcroft and CIA Director George Bush were allowed to see this "interesting and useful" report. Vice President Rockefeller was not allowed to see it. And the

President's News Secretary, Ron Nessen, was not even informed about its arrival until, apparently, he read about it in TIME magazine.

When at a subsequent White House press briefing I observed "It appears as if you have been shabbily treated, Ron," Nessen replied:

"That's one of the few times in my life that I've ever agreed with you, Les."

Reportedly, President Ford very nearly lost his second press secretary when Nessen that afternoon stormed out of the White House and went home.

Reportedly the President that evening devoted some 90 minutes to soothing his justifiably outraged news secretary. Also reportedly, Mr. Ford reprimanded Skowcroft for withholding this information from Nessen.

Gen. Skowcroft is known to be an ardent disciple of that internationally known mystery addict named Henry Kissinger, who is known to lose little love upon Ron Nessen — and vice versa.

— LK

Nixon Report Coverup